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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

Dr. Carl Holladay, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Gracious God, we confess You as the one who inspired our beginnings as a people in quest of freedom and who sustained these hopes in times of threat and despair. In deep gratitude today, we remember this Nation's brave men and women, who died for the cause of freedom.

Bless this House as it deliberates today. Give those gathered here a special measure of Your wisdom. Let them do their work driven by a desire to serve the common good. Let them hear the plaintive cries of those longing to be heard. Let them know the hopes of those who live with noble dreams unfulfilled. Let them remember the prayers of those who long to be free.

We pray for peace and justice, knowing how the demands of justice compete with cries for mercy, yet willing to make ourselves instruments of Your peace in this world. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MASCARA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MASCARA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 171. Concurrent resolution declaring the city of Roanoke, Virginia, to be the official site of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Services.

The message also announced that the Senate passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the European Union is unfairly restricting the importation of United States agriculture products and the elimination of such restrictions should be a top priority in trade negotiations with the European Union.

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO EXTEND REMARKS IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD TODAY

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for today all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials in that section of the RECORD entitled Extensions of Remarks.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize Members for eight 1-minute speeches on each side.

WORKING U.S. CITIZENS SUFFER FROM DEMORALIZING AND CRUSHING TAX BURDEN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, incredible as it may sound, for the first 132 working days of this year, every penny earned by the hard-working men and women of Nevada did not go to pay for their kids' education, did not go to pay for their home mortgage, did not go to pay their medical insurance or expenses. Instead, it all went to this expanding government bureaucracy.

Fully one-third of the year's effort of these hard-working Americans has been spent just to pick up the tab for the bloated government bureaucracy. Decades of unchecked growth and deficit spending by the liberal tax and spenders has left the hard-working men and women of this country with this demoralizing and crushing tax burden.

The vast majority of Americans do not object to paying their fair share of taxes, but they do object to the suffocating level of taxation that exists under this administration.

Arthur Godfrey put it best when he said, "I'm proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is, I could be just as proud for half the money."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the Republican proposal to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. Let us allow hard-working families to keep more, not less, of their money.

RECOGNITION OF AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY

(Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow Virgin Islanders in recognition of African Liberation Day, which will be celebrated on Monday, May 25, a day created in 1963 as a rallying point for freedom and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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to mark the progress of the liberation struggles in Africa.

For my constituents and I, this year's celebration is especially significant because it occurs as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of emancipation from slavery.

For Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora, this year has special significance as we await the enactment of the African trade bill and look forward to the passage of a similar proposal for the Caribbean.

It is my hope that as we come together, not only in the Virgin Islands but around the world, to reaffirm our oneness, we can move closer to our full economic liberation with the creation of a new and unique trade area which will link all of Africa's children, those on the continent as well as those in the United States and the Caribbean.

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO PLEASE EXPLAIN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO COMMUNIST CHINA

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I would like the President to explain to the American people why authority for approving technology transfers to Communist China was transferred from the State Department to the Commerce Department in this administration.

I would like to know why national security concerns would be overruled by commercial considerations, thus endangering the security of all Americans.

The idea that it is official U.S. policy to improve Communist China's rockets defies explanation. Instead of developing a missile defense system of our own, this administration is helping to develop Communist China's strategic nuclear missile program, a program with missiles even now aimed at the United States.

This policy is madness, utter madness, and I am still awaiting an explanation from this administration why they determined that assisting Communist China in the development of its "Long March" missile is in the national interest of the United States.

Refusing to build a national missile defense because perfecting China's missiles is a higher priority is not only nutty and bizarre, it clearly puts our country at increased risk.

SUPPORT H. CON. RES. 203 TO FUND VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS STAMP

(Mr. MASCARA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support my resolution, H.Con.Res. 203, the resolution

requesting the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It honors those men and women who fought, bled and died in every war in which the United States has engaged during this century.

The U.S. Postal Service is issuing many stamps to celebrate this century. Some of these are very worthy events and deserve to be recognized. However, the VFW should be given as much consideration as cartoon characters, Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe.

As we leave this century, I believe the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee should do the right thing; issue a stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of one of the Nation's oldest veterans organizations.

At the present time, I have over 125 cosponsors, a bipartisan effort. I ask other Members to join me in do sponsoring H.Con.Res. 203 to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars with the issuance of a 100th anniversary commemorative stamp.

TRIBUTE TO ROSCOE ALLEN, JR., OF OCILLA, GEORGIA

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Roscoe Allen, Jr., of Ocilla, Georgia. Mr. Allen has been selected by the Small Business Administration as Small Businessperson of the Year for the State of Georgia, and he will represent Georgia in the selection process for the National Small Businessperson of the Year.

In just 2 years, Mr. Allen has made his mark in the competitive snack food industry. He broke into the peanut processing business by putting in long hours, traveling many miles and practicing his straightforward sales pitch to his wife and long-time friend. His company, known as the Roscoe Allen Company, is the first southern, African-American-owned peanuts and mixed nuts processor. His products are sold in grocery stores all across the southeast as well as in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Allen's commitment to providing quality products and outstanding service at an economical price and for achieving success in a competitive market in such a short period of time. I congratulate Mr. Allen and wish him all the best at the Small Businessperson award ceremony and commend him for being an outstanding example of a small businessman and to let him know that all of Georgia is very proud of him.

PARENTS, WITH GOD'S HELP, RAISE OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, another tragedy in our schools: more expert analysis.

One group said America should heed the advice of the First Lady when she said it takes a community to raise a child. I do not mean to be disrespectful, but I disagree.

Communities do not raise a child; PTAs do not raise a child; schools do not raise a child; day care centers and summer camps do not raise a child. My colleagues, the awesome responsibility of raising a child is still the parents. Parents raise our children.

Maybe if America got back to basics and placed more emphasis on parents instead of communities, our kids would be much better off. If the community wants to help, they might allow God back into our schools. Parents, with the help of God, will be much more effective raising our kids.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN BELGIUM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern over an increase in religious intolerance in the country of Belgium.

In 1997, the Belgian parliament published a Sect Report which branded Evangelical Christians, Pentecostals, Amish, Charismatics, and other Evangelical mission groups as potentially dangerous sects. In addition, the Belgian parliamentary report also targeted Catholic Charismatics.

Former King of Belgium, Baldwyn I, who was known to be close to the Charismatic movement inside the Catholic church, was even attacked on the front page of a daily newspaper.

The Belgian Sect Report was followed by legislation on April 30 this year which established a Sect Observatory.

Mr. Speaker, its highly disturbing that a government which abides by the Helsinki Accords, as well as the European Convention on Human Rights, should violate these agreements by establishing a government network to monitor the religious activity of law-abiding citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the fundamental right of religious liberty must be protected for all people, including those in Western Europe.

□ 0915

BESTEA CONFERENCE REPORT

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, today later on the floor of the House of Representatives, the BESTEA conference report will be up. And Members on both sides are to be commended for the work they have done on this piece of legislation.